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478CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troop Movements in the WITTENBERGE Area

EVALUATION see below

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT see below

25X1
DATE PREPARED 17 November 1949

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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30 September 1949

25X1. a. The following Soviet truck convoys, coming from the direction of PERLEBERG (M 54/T 70), moved through WITTENBERGE (M 53/Y 69) and proceeded south:

Forty trucks, occupied to capacity by infantry troops, armed with rapid-fire rifles. The trucks were marked with a broad, vertical, white stripe in front and on the rear walls.

An artillery column of 20 trucks and ten 76.2-mm guns without muzzle brake. The trucks were marked with a horizontal white stripe.

b. A train of 12 flatcars, carrying trucks, and 12 boxcars, coming from the direction of SCHWERIN (M 54/T 46), was observed north of WITTENBERGE. Flatcars behind the engine and at the end of the train were loaded with machine guns.

2. a. Rail movements observed in the WITTENBERGE area:

27 September 1949

Train, carrying six JS tanks, about ten T34 tanks and some trucks, proceeding from WITTENBERGE towards STENDAL (M 53/Y 85).

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28 September 1949

Train, carrying T34 tanks, five trucks, one ambulance and one passenger car, proceeding from WITTENBERGE towards STENDAL.

30 September 1949:

Two trains, carrying tanks, proceeding towards STENDAL.

2 October 1949

Train, carrying an engineer unit of about a hundred troops, 24 trucks loaded with pontoon sections and several trucks loaded

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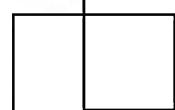
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with bridge building equipment, proceeding towards STENDAL at 6 p.m.

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The engine of the train had been furnished by the PARCHIM (M 54/T 74) engine depot.

3 October 1949

Train, carrying about 30 trucks, several field kitchens, several trucks with AA machine guns, two canvas-covered track-laying vehicles, about five passenger cars and troops of about company strength, proceeding towards STENDAL.

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4 October 1949

b. A WITTENBERGE railroad official reported that many trains with troops, particularly tank troops, had left WITTENBERGE across the Elbe River bridge during the preceding three or four days. The trains were dispatched with priority towards OEBISFELDE (M 53/Y 23). The same railroad official also observed motorized units with about three hundred trucks and armored vehicles moving by road across the Elbe River bridge, heading west.

7 and 8 October 1949

3. Numerous tanks were entrained in WITTENBERGE for shipment to MAGDEBURG (M 53/Y 60).

10 October 1949

4. a. Empty trains, running in a north-south direction, started passing through the WITTENBERGE area at an increased rate. Most of the trains consisted of 10 to 15 boxcars and 30 to 35 flatcars of 15 to 35-ton load capacity.

b. Numerous military trains, running in south-north direction passed through WITTENBERGE. Trains observed:

11 October 1949

Train, carrying about 200 troops (on eight boxcars) and 27 trucks, 5 jeeps, 3 passenger cars and 5 guns of 50 mm caliber (on thirty-four 15-ton flatcars).

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Each truck was occupied by two or three soldiers.

12 October 1949

Train of nine 15-ton flatcars carrying five 76.2-mm guns, one passenger car, seven trucks and 25 to 30 troops.

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[Redacted]
13 October 1949

Train, carrying about 300 troops (in 13 boxcars) and 24 trucks, 2 trucks with AA machine guns, 6 jeeps, 3 field kitchens, two 50-mm antitank guns and 2 canvas-covered armored reconnaissance cars (on twenty-nine 15-ton or 35-ton flatcars).

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[Redacted]
12 October 1949

c. Only few motorized columns were observed to pass through the WITTENBERGE area heading north. For example, one convoy of six trucks, each carrying about 20 troops with equipment and baggage, was observed to move towards PERLEERG.

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[Redacted]
15 to 17 October 1949

d. No military trains were observed passing through WITTENBERGE.

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[Redacted] Comment:

It is known from other reports that maneuvers were conducted in the area south of WITTENBERGE in early October 1949. The troops participating in these maneuvers included component units of the 94th Gds Ltz Kifle Div and Hq units of the Third Shock Army.

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